



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY



# CARE Connect: Community Assessment, Referral, Education, and Connections Project

## Purpose

Chronic lack of access to healthcare and adequate nutrition leads to health disparities that make food insecure families more vulnerable to disease. Through a multidisciplinary initiative, we conducted a pilot to assess the feasibility and preliminary efficacy of providing health screening, education, referrals, and follow up services for food pantry patrons that directly and indirectly addressed critical public health issues.

## Impact

With support from a Course Development and Enrichment Grant (Offices of Service-Learning, Undergraduate Education, Outreach and Engagement), our team has created a new service-learning course at OSU (2017 launch).

In cooperation with Buck-I-SERV, a five-week community outreach/service learning STEP experience will be offered as a pilot of the semester-long course. Service learning will take place in Columbus (urban) and NC (rural).

Our team facilitated connecting 85% of high risk clients with primary care. We have disseminated our results at 2 international conferences, via 6 poster sessions, and have 3 manuscripts in preparation.



Hunger.FOOD.Health



CARE Connect

## Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

College of Medicine  
School of Health and  
Rehabilitation Sciences  
Division of Health Sciences and  
Medical Dietetics  
Division of Occupational Therapy  
Division of Athletic Training  
Division of Physical Therapy  
Division of Respiratory Therapy  
Division of Health Information  
Management and Systems

## Community Partners Involved

Stowe Mission  
Community Development for All  
People (CD4AP)  
Salvation Army Food Pantry  
PrimaryOne Health Central Ohio  
Community Health Centers

## How you can get involved:

- Support our wonderful community partners!
- Students should watch and register for our upcoming service-learning course (2017)
- Students can email Dr. Spees to be added to our volunteer list.
- Encourage funders to support these types of multidisciplinary initiatives
- Faculty can engage in collaborative research and upcoming service-learning course

## To get involved, contact:

Colleen Spees  
Assistant Professor  
Medical Dietetics & Health Science  
[spees.11@osu.edu](mailto:spees.11@osu.edu)  
[go.osu.edu/hfh](http://go.osu.edu/hfh)